



A few days after the release of Fedora Core 6, Janani Gopalakrishnan posed a few questions to Max Spevack, chairman, Fedora Project Board, on behalf of LFY. Why was FC6 named Zod? Did they party after the release? What's cooking next? Spevack had answers to these and more.

Max Tips his Fedora to Zod

LFY: In one of the reports announcing the release of Fedora Core 6, you had challenged users to figure out the connection between the names of Fedora Core 5 and 6, i.e., Bordeaux and Zod respectively. Please do enlighten us now!

Well, 'Zod' is, among other things, the name of a character from the Superman universe, created by DC Comics. 'Bordeaux' has a similar association—there is a character in DC Comics' Batman universe named Sasha Bordeaux.

That's the connection between the two release names. So when the time to name Fedora Core 7 comes, we will have to find a name that is in some way related to 'Zod', yet not in the way Zod was related to Bordeaux.

MAX SPEVACK, chairman, Fedora Project Board

LFY: What was the most memorable aspect of the release of Fedora Core 6? Releases are often full of happy, comical or disastrous events that become memories twenty years down the line. At the Zed release, were there little goofs like servers that went down or developers who got drunk... do tell us about what went on behind-the-screen.

I wish I had some "...we had a crazy party after the release" stories, but not really. A bunch of the folks in the North Carolina office are going to head up to the Boston office in a few weeks to have some meetings with the engineers about Fedora Core 7. I'm sure we'll buy everyone dinner to celebrate, but when we actually released Fedora Core 6, we mostly spent the time trying to handle the Web traffic, responding to various interview requests that came in, answering questions, and making sure that everything was (more or less) working the way it should.

When I'm no longer a part of Fedora, the things that I'm going to remember most are the people that I had a chance to work with. What impresses me the most about Fedora is the number of brilliant contributors who do great work for us, all in their spare time, or at night when they get home from their other jobs. My goal is to make Fedora as good as possible so that folks who are giving their time to the Fedora Project can feel proud of the results.

LFY: Where does India stand as a consumer and as a contributor to the Fedora Project?

Rahul would probably be better equipped to answer this question. My understanding is that there is a tremendous desire for free software in India, and that Fedora is no exception. From the contribution angle, I think Rahul should answer that.

Rahul Sundaram, Fedora Ambassador—India: L10N and I18N are major efforts of Indian contributors to Fedora. There are a large number of people involved in translating Fedora into Indian languages, including full-time employees from Red Hat.

Fedora has the broadest out-of-the-box support for Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali and Punjabi. We have recently added support for Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Malayalam and Urdu. We also provide the easy-to-use SCIM input method for these languages through developments by Red Hat engineering people.

We already have 25 Indian Fedora Ambassadors and the number is growing. We have active contributors to the Fedora Free Media Program where volunteers ship Fedora media for free all over India. There are a few Indians maintaining packages in Fedora Extras and others who've shown interest in doing so.

However, compared to the other regions in the world and considering the number of end-users, the number of active contributors involved in new development, quality assurance and bug triaging, documenting artwork and various other sub-projects in Fedora, is still pretty low. The good news is that there

is a lot of potential for people to get involved and make a real difference for the project and for themselves. If you are interested in contributing to (potentially) the most popular distribution in India, take a look at <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/HelpWanted>

If you need guidance, the Fedora mentors program can walk you through the steps involved: <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Mentors>

Fedora awaits the participation of more Free software enthusiasts!

The relationship between Fedora and RHEL is equally simple. It is not a 'beta' versus 'stable' relationship at all. Fedora is upstream of RHEL. Therefore, Fedora is also upstream of any distribution that is a derivative of RHEL, such as CentOS, or Oracle's Unbreakable Linux.

LFY: If Fedora is great, why would people buy RHEL then? There are many misconceptions about the Fedora-Red Hat relationship. There are those who say that Fedora is merely a beta of RHEL, or that the project is just a way to reduce Red Hat's development costs, etc. How is Fedora going to dispel these notions?

People who need years and years of support for their distribution will buy RHEL. That's really the main difference. Red Hat offers many-year support contracts for RHEL. We don't offer that support for Fedora. So, if you need enterprise-class support, RHEL is a product that might be interesting to you.

Fedora is about rapid progress and innovation. It's about figuring out what the best available software is in the open source world, and making it available to people for free. It's about creating an operating system that anyone can use—and that people can use in a production environment if they would like to.

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LFY: And what's your view of Unbreakable Linux?

Our corporate view on the subject can be found at <http://www.redhat.com/promo/unfakeable/>

LFY: What's next on channel Fedora?

Here are a few things: Making LiveCDs/DVDs better, infrastructure improvements that will allow more community participation, breaking down the distinction between Fedora Core and Fedora Extras, and allowing people to build distributions that make the most sense to them, out of an entire pile of 'Fedora' packages. **END** 

